

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

February 27th, 2015

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 A Plan to Attack

What is a Veteran? Do veterans get special treatment from the government in your home country? Should they be given special privileges by the government for serving their country? This first story is about a frustrated veteran who was planning an attack on a downtown building in Calgary.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	plan (v)	a) to admit to; to say you did it
	attack (n)	b) retired soldier; person who worked for the army
	veteran	c) put in jail; detain
	plead guilty	d) army; military
	arrest (v)	e) a strike against someone; physical assault
	firearms	f) prepare for; to organize
	armed forces	g) guns; weapons

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Veterans Affairs Office– the office that is responsible for meeting the veterans’ needs

Long-term disability – When you are unable to work for a long period of time because of a physical injury or mental and emotional issues, you go on long-term disability.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The Calgary veteran will have to spend another 4 years in prison.
2. ____ The man pleaded guilty to having firearms and explosives on him.
3. ____ The man turned himself into the police, so he could be arrested last year.
4. ____ The building plans for the Veterans Affairs office were likely part of his plan.
5. ____ His plan was to warn the Office that he was going to hurt them if he didn’t get his way.
6. ____ It is likely that Gieschen was upset with the Veteran’s office about his health care benefits.

Discussion: Do you think people should be sent to prison for planning to commit a crime if they have not actually committed the crime? How can police prove that someone is going to do something that hasn’t been done yet? What drives one person to kill another person?

News story #2 The Study of Becoming Radicalized

Do you know what it means to be radical? How does what someone tells us affect our thinking? Where do we get our ideas on how to view the world? This second story is about a German expert who is trying to start a discussion on how to prevent people from joining groups like ISIS.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
radicalize	To change into someone who has very different ideas from most people in society, particularly regarding social or political views
handful	A very small number of people or things
outreach	When help or other services are given to people who might not look for the help on their own
recruit	To find new people to join a group or organization
case studies	A study of an individual person or situation
propaganda	False information, or something that is only showing one view or perspective
psychological	To do with the mind and how it affects behavior
mechanism	A system or thing that does a specific job

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Jihadi online propaganda – the videos and messages found on the internet that are meant to convince people to join the extremist Muslim groups in their fight against Western ideology

1. There have been a lot of _____ written, which focus on people's _____ problems.
2. With the use of _____, which is against Western ideas and beliefs, certain groups around the world have _____ people and _____ them into their groups.
3. A clock is a time-telling _____ that shows what time it is any time of day.
4. There are only a _____ of people in the world ever to have grown up in the wild and lived only with animals their whole lives.
5. There are a lot of _____ programs set up in Calgary that can help you with your problems.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Answer the questions below as you listen to the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is Daniel Kohler's goal?
2. Who is Kohler teaching about radicalization?
3. How does Kohler teach these people about radicalization?
4. What do they likely do when they go over case studies together?
5. How many other training sessions like this are there in Canada?

Discussion Question: What does it mean to look at the psychological mechanisms of radicalization? How does a person become radicalized into thinking something very different from what they used to think?

News story #3 Art Matters

Do you enjoy looking at pieces of art? How does seeing art around the city you live in make you feel? This next story is about a council member's plan to cut spending on public art in Calgary.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	the floor	a) When an economy makes less money
	suspend	b) To agree with and be in favor of
	economic downturn	c) A place or a time to discuss something
	reconsider	d) How quickly or slowly something grows or increases
	support	e) To stop or hold off on something
	motion	f) Supposed to be; thought to happen in the future
	rate of growth	g) To think about something again
	expected	h) A bill or idea that is brought forward in a meeting

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Public art – art that is displayed in public spaces for citizens to enjoy

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Matching

Match the columns according to how the subject affects the object. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Subject of statement	Matching letter (a,b,c,d,e)	Object of statement
1. The bid to cut spending on public art_____.		a) wanted to talk about suspending the art program for 2015 at the meeting.
2. Councilor Demong _____.		b) is working on a plan that could save Calgary \$20,000,000 in 2015.
3. Cancelling the public art in 2015 _____.		c) voted not to reconsider next year's budget yet.
4. Most of the other councilors at the meeting _____.		d) is expected to be released in March or April.
5. The city manager _____.		e) didn't make it to the floor at a council meeting.
6. The report on the plan to save money _____.		f) could save up to \$4,000,000.

Discussion: Is art important? Why? How do people and societies use art to express themselves?

Language Focus: Adjective Clauses

Form

1. Adjective clauses begin with:

a) A relative pronoun: who, whom, whose, that, or which

Or

b) A relative adverb: when, where, or why

2. They will contain a subject and a verb.

3. They usually come after the noun that they are describing.

Meaning and Use

We use these to give more descriptive information about nouns (people, places or things).

They function as adjectives answering the questions: What kind? How many? Which one?

Adding a comma

If your clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence, don't use a comma.

e.g. The lady who wore the red dress asked the man to buy her a drink.

– This implies that the only lady who asked for a drink is the one who is wearing a red dress, not any of the other ladies there.

If your clause is just adding extra information that isn't essential, then use a comma.

e.g. The lady, who wore the red dress, asked the man to buy her a drink.

- This implies that there was only one lady there and she was wearing a red dress, which is not really that important, but it is just extra information for the reader.

Activity: Look at the examples taken from this week's stories.

First identify the adjective clause. Next identify which noun is being described by the adjective clause. Last, decide if there should be commas added into the sentence or not.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. A Calgary man who planned to attack a downtown building which houses the Veterans Affairs office has been sentenced to four years in prison.
2. He's teaching a handful of counsellors and outreach workers how to help families who are at risk or who have already been recruited.
3. He says he's disappointed. Council did hear that the city manager is working on a plan which could save Calgary 20 million dollars this year as the rate of growth is expected to slow.

Now you try writing some sentences using adjective clauses!

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY 27 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 27 th .	0:00
Story 1	A Calgary, man who planned to attack a downtown building, which houses the Veterans Affairs office has been sentenced to four years in prison -- less 18 months credit for time already served. 45-year-old Glen Gieschen had pleaded guilty to firearms and explosive charges. He was arrested in January of last year after he was found with weapons, explosives and detailed building plans for the Veterans Affairs office on the seventh floor of the Bantrel Tower at 7th Street and Sixth Avenue South West. Gieschen had been on long-term disability from the armed forces, but was fighting Veterans Affairs over his health care benefits.	0:09
Story 2	A German expert is working with Calgarians to stop radicalization. Daniel Kohler is the director of the German Institute on Radicalization and De-radicalization Studies. He's teaching a handful of counsellors and outreach workers how to help families who are at risk, or who have already been recruited. He says they go over case studies and discuss jihadi online propaganda, and the psychological mechanisms of radicalization to see where exactly how to help. Kohler conducted similar workshops in Winnipeg last week. He says this is the first training of its kind that he knows about in Canada.	0:58
Story 3	A bid to cut this year's spending on public art never even made it to the floor at a city council meeting. Councillor Peter Demong wanted to suspend the program for 2015 because of the economic downturn - - a move he says could save up to four million dollars, but ten members of council had to vote in favour of reconsidering this year's city budget -- and only five supported the idea. That means Demong's motion will not be debated at this time. He says he's disappointed. Council did hear that the city manager is working on a plan, which could save Calgary 20 million dollars this year as the rate of growth is expected to slow. That report is expected in March or April.	1:45

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
f	Plan (v)	a) to admit to to say you did it
e	Attack (n)	b) retired soldier person who worked for the army
b	Veteran	c) put in jail detain
a	Plead guilty	d) army military
c	Arrest (v)	e) a strike against someone physical assault
g	Firearms	f) prepare for to organize
d	Armed forces	g) guns weapons

Listening:

1. F The Calgary veteran will have to spend another 4 years in prison.
2. T The man pleaded guilty to having firearms and explosives on him.
3. F The man turned himself into the police so he could be arrested last year.
4. T The building plans to the Veterans Affairs office were likely part of his plan.
5. F His plan was to warn the Office that he was going to hurt them if he didn't get his way.
6. T It is likely that Gieschen was upset with the VA office about his health care benefits.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

1. There have been a lot of **case studies** written, which focus on people's **psychological** problems.
2. With the use of **propaganda**, which is against Western ideas and beliefs, certain groups around the world have **radicalized** people and **recruited** them to their groups.
3. A clock is a time-telling **mechanism** that shows what time it is any time of day.
4. There are only a **handful** of people in the world ever to have grown up in the wild and lived only with animals their whole lives.

- There are a lot of **outreach** programs set up in Calgary that can help you with your problems.

Listening:

- What is Daniel Kohler's goal? **To stop radicalization**
- Who is Kohler teaching about radicalization? **A handful of counselors and outreach workers**
- How does Kohler teach these people about radicalization? **They go over case studies and discuss jihadi online propaganda.**
- What do they likely do when they go over case studies together? **They look to see what happened in the past so they can learn from it and try to stop it from happening in the future.**
- How many other training sessions like this are there in Canada? **This is the first one that Kohler knows about.**

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	the floor	a) When an economy makes less money
e	suspend	b) To agree with and be in favor of
a	economic downturn	c) A place or a time to discuss something
g	reconsider	d) How fast or slow something grows or increases
b	support	e) To stop or hold off on something
h	motion	f) Supposed to be
d	rate of growth	g) To think about something again
f	expected	h) A bill or idea that is brought forward in a meeting

Listening:

Subject of statement	Matching letter (a,b,c,d,e)	Object of statement
1. The bid to cut spending on public art_____.	e	a) wanted to talk about suspending the art program for 2015 at the meeting.
2. Councilor Demong	a	b) is working on a plan that could save Calgary \$20,000,000 in 2015.
3. Cancelling the public art in 2015	f	c) voted not to reconsider next year's budget yet.

_____.		
4. Most of the other councilors at the meeting _____.	c	d) is expected to be released in March or April.
5. The city manager _____.	b	e) didn't make it to the floor at a council meeting.
6. The report on the plan to save money _____.	d	f) could save up to \$4,000,000.

Language focus: Adjective Clauses

1. A Calgary man, who planned to attack a downtown building, which houses the Veterans Affairs office, has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Who describes more information about what the man did.

Which describes what type of building it was downtown.

These two adjective clauses get a comma between them because both pieces of information are adding extra information about the noun, but they are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. They help us understand more about the man and the downtown building, but the main point of this sentence is that a Calgary man has been sentenced to four years in prison.

2. He's teaching a handful of counsellors and outreach workers how to help families **who are at risk**, or who have already been recruited.

Who describes the families that are at risk and that have been recruited.

No comma with these adjective clauses. The comma is used here only because there is the word "or", not because of the adjective clause. These adjective clauses are essential information because it is only these types of families that the outreach workers need to help.

3. He says he's disappointed. Council did hear that the city manager is working on a plan, which could save Calgary 20 million dollars this year as the rate of growth is expected to slow.

Which describes the plan.

There is a comma here because this gives extra, non-essential information about what the plan will try to do.